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25X1

*Mr. After lunch. Let's sit down ()
talk about what our theory or purpose
should be in the Pres. briefing. You set up. FFB*

15 December 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, National Foreign Assessment Center
FROM : Presidential Briefing Coordinator
SUBJECT : Preparations for Presidential Briefings

1. Attached is the 15 December memorandum showing where topics stand. Only the following require action on your part.

2. Please review the two topic outlines and indicate any changes to be made:

25X1 outlines delivered to:
a. Profile of Arab Rejection Front

OK as is _____ Drop it _____

Modify as indicated on outline ☒

b. Chinese Shopping for Western Technology

OK as is _____ Drop it _____

Modify as indicated on outline ☒

3. Please review the following subjects and indicate if we should pursue them to the point of preparing topic outlines for you and the DCI to evaluate. I recommend that you drop at least half of these else we'll be pursuing too many dead ends. If the information I'm giving you is not sufficient to make such a cut, I'll have to figure out how to get better.

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a. Soviet Views on Banning Weapons of Mass Destruction. The DCI noted that he wondered why the Soviets were pushing these negotiations. Our experts think it is a propaganda ploy, no more. I recommend we not pursue it and you tell the DCI why orally or in writing.

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Write outline _____ Drop this ☒

Prepare a memo explaining why ☒

b. Factors Influencing Mexican Migrations. Dr. Ernst feels the attached draft paper will be a good basis for a mid-January briefing in light of the Vice President's plan to go to Mexico later in January.

Write outline ☒ Drop this _____

c. Estimating Soviet Manpower and Costing Soviet Military Forces. Attached is a briefing used in June and backup material. The briefing would be given no sooner than early February to allow new estimates to be made. I would then hold it for filler for a dull day. No brilliant insight is likely. We only thought of this because Secretary Brown liked the attached dollar cost comparison, the brown cover, so well that he gave the President a copy in November.

Write outline ☒ Drop this _____

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d. Chinese Civil Defense. OSR's nomination says, "Extensive civil defense shelters to protect against air and missile attack have been built throughout the country, the most elaborate in large cities. They offer reasonably good protection against nuclear attack, but only a few minutes warning of a Soviet missile attack is likely. (Despite the earlier abortive attempt at this briefing, I believe the decoupling of it from the West European trip of Chinese military officials will result in an interesting, homogeneous review)". The "earlier abortive attempt" was in October. The thing always fell to the end of the list until I abandoned it. I don't see this impacting anything the President will care about except possibly as a footnote to the Sino/Soviet briefing.

Write outline _____ Drop this ☒

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e. Libya's Military Equipment Inventory. OSR says, "A discussion relating the excessive size of the equipment stockpile to Libyan military forces. Included would be a review of Libyan recruitment and training problems, the role of foreign technicians and advisors, equipment maintenance difficulties, and discussion of Libya as storehouse for third countries." This would be a short topic, about five minutes, but there is solid evidence that can best be presented as imagery supported by a few words.

Write outline ☒ (?) Drop this ☐

f. Japan, Its Relations with China and the USSR. This topic was nominated without amplification by the NIO/EAP. I don't know if this is relevant to our negotiations with the Japanese or not. At any rate ORPA will finish a piece on this in early January.

Write outline ☒ Drop this ☐

g. Soviet Forced Labor Camps. OGCR's nominating paper is attached.

Write outline ☒ Drop this ☐

h. Telemetry. OWI's nominating paper is attached.

Write outline ☒ Drop this ☐

i. Soviet Missile/Space R&D Management. OWI's nominating paper is attached.

Write outline ☒ Drop this ☐

j. US Research Capability on the USSR. You have the nomination from NIO/Econ and NIO/USSR

Write outline ☒ Drop this ☐

4. No action is required on the following items which appear on the list sent to NIOs and Office Directors as being proposed topics for the reasons indicated:

a. Outlines already are being prepared based on your comments on earlier versions of this memorandum.

(1) Worldwide Nuclear Weapons Developments Relating to CTB

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(2) Monitoring a Chemical Warfare Ban

b. I am trying to find some models or other special effects to support a briefing on "Soviet Interest in Very Large Space Boosters". If I can find something good, this could be a super briefing. Otherwise, I will recommend treating it in a PDB Annex.

[Redacted]

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d. The following subjects are clearly of such importance that outlines should be prepared when the basic studies have matured:

(1) Reduced Oil Production Impact on the World Economy *

(2) NIE 11-4

[Redacted]

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Attachments:
As stated

* Report this was to be made
by Friday / Monday (sec 16 or 19)

(Along with [Redacted] update) From

OER - ([Redacted]) of so show

to used.

[Redacted]

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Next 4 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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13 December 1977

PRESIDENTIAL BRIEFING ON THE SOVIET FORCED LABOR SYSTEM

The proposed briefing on the Soviet forced labor camp system will cover the number of camps, their locations, approximate size of the prison population, and the contribution of forced labor to the Soviet economy. It will be a spin-off of a current re-examination of these topics which we have followed in some depth for a number of years. Our primary source [redacted]

The report will show that labor camps are no longer distributed in inaccessible regions of Siberia and the Soviet Far North as they once were under Stalin, but are located in more accessible regions, usually in proximity to transportation systems. Our analysis so far reveals that the forced labor system has changed drastically since Stalin, especially in the comparative number of political-type prisoners that are now incarcerated. Crime, fed by increasing alcoholism among a broad stratum of the Soviet populace, is now responsible for the bulk of prisoners in the camps. Faced with the dilemma of mounting labor shortages the Soviet leadership seems to be turning increasingly to sentencing prisoners to serve their sentences at jobs in labor deficient regions, but without confinement. We will indicate that such non-confined prisoners may actually be more numerous than those in camps. Recent testimony of former prisoners describing their rigorous life in the camps will also be discussed, as well as examples of blatant violations of human rights of some political prisoners, which is in clear violation of provisions in the Helsinki Agreement on Security and Cooperation.

*Be careful to
avoid hyperbole
here.*